

1997-98 SESSION  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on  
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR\_RCP\_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR\_RCP\_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR\_RCP\_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ \*\*

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ \*\*

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ \*\*

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ \*\*

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ \*\*

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

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➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi\_Misc\_pt152 ~~152~~

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

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## A CALL FOR RATIONAL CRIME POLICY IN WISCONSIN

The Benedict Center stands with its citizen justice advocates to urge responsible Wisconsin State Legislators to **reject** the escalation of Wisconsin's existing prison-reliant crime policy proposed in the Governor's Biennial Budget Message February 12, 1997.

Instead, we call for our elected representatives to enact legislation which opens the door to rational and effective justice policies. **We must have new policies which enhance public safety by concentrating funding and resources on effective Community Confinement and Control initiatives, as recommended by the Governor's Task Force on Sentencing and Corrections.**

**We Urge the Legislature to ENACT the Rational Crime Policies Proposed by the Governor's Task Force on Sentencing and Corrections and to REJECT the Escalation of Unproductive Incarceration Policies.**

For 23 years, the Benedict Center's Women's program has provided a successful alternative for women caught in the criminal justice system and its interfaith Chaplaincy Program has ministered to the spiritual and programmatic needs of men and women incarcerated in County Jail. Throughout this history, citizen advocates have joined with the Benedict Center's Alternatives Program to monitor, research, propose, and advocate a system of justice that operates fairly and treats everyone involved with dignity. Our recommendations are born of service and experience.

Benedict Center advocates acknowledge the need to remove some violent offenders from society for a very long time, but we believe the State, which is already incarcerating 14,000 individuals, has adequate space to imprison those who must be removed. The safety of the community is dependent upon the behavior of those who return, and all but the most violent will return. **For the sake and safety of the community, we believe many should never be sent away. Their confinement and control should be managed close to home where the influences and the support structures to change behavior are the strongest, the most critical, and the most effective.**

We stand opposed to absolute "truth in sentencing," abolishment of parole, extended maximum sentences, non-judicial sentence extensions, 4400 new prison beds, and the banishment of 500 more inmates to an out of state *private* prison -- as proposed in the Governor's Budget Message.

## **We Urge the Legislature to Enact the Recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Sentencing and Corrections.**

The Task Force recommendations were thoroughly researched and studied for a year by respected public and private sector leaders *appointed by the Governor*. Their conclusions and recommendations must be seriously deliberated. When enacted the proposed policy changes will return the State of Wisconsin to progressive national leadership in the development of effective, responsible responses to crime.

### **... The Task Force Plan's Philosophy is Sound**

The principle embraced by the Task Force is one universally employed by sound businesses -- risk management. The Task Force makes clear, *the risk of offense can never be completely eliminated, but the risk to public safety can be managed*. Risk can be managed by restoring responsible self-determination to the offender in a controlled, structured community setting where he cannot be anonymous, and where human systems within the community where he lives will provide day to day support for his personal development and sustained employment. He will be known and he will be held accountable by those he knows.

### **... The Task Force Plan Succeeds Specifically**

1. **Community Confinement and Control is a groundbreaking plan based on the demonstrated success of community corrections.** By courageously and sincerely calling for a new way of doing business in corrections, the Task Force lays out a plan which is affordable in the short-term, and which demonstrates sound potential to control and dramatically curb costs in the future. With refreshing logic, it guarantees offenders access to resources that can directly affect their successful rehabilitation. At the same time, it constructively channels some of those resources into remedying problems which create a fertile environment for crime in the community.
2. **The Task Force plan invests corrections dollars back into the community instead of sending dollars out-state and out of state.** Community corrections agents will work with the offenders and work with the community to benefit both. The plan creates new jobs that provide challenging and rewarding work to residents in areas most affected by crime, instead of increasing jobs that are at the same time boring and dangerous in outlying areas far from the sources of the problems.

3. **The Task Force Makes Treatment, Education, and Training Affordable and Accessible.** By completing treatment programs, raising education levels, working, and changing other behavior, offenders earn their way out from strict controls and confinement and gradually gain the skills and confidence to cope successfully with the temptations and traps that will always lurk somewhere down the street. Communities have a great array of programs and services that can be tailored to meet the specific developmental needs of each offender. The state can invest in the expansion of those programs far more effectively than it can bring even such a program inside the walls of a prison.
4. **The Task Force Plan Recognizes the Value of Families.** It draws on the power of family ties to motivate the offender to change behavior. It does this by keeping the offender close to home whenever appropriate, bringing him back to a Community Control and Confinement facility as soon as he has demonstrated sufficient progress.
5. **The Task Force Plan Respects the Opinions of the Community.** Communities have a strong voice in fashioning the Community Control and Confinement and Control system in their area into a model that reflects their character, needs, and aspirations of their communities.



### **The Budget Crime Plan Must be Removed from the Budget Bill and Deliberated as Policy**

How this State responds to crime is a major budgetary consideration, but the design and intelligent adoption of that plan requires serious policy deliberation that must afford extremely divergent opinions, recommendations, and expertise a forum unadulterated by hundreds of other highly significant and insignificant expenditures. If there is not sound consideration of radical policy escalation or change, every Wisconsin citizen, law abiding or not, loses.

### **... The Budget Crime Plan's Philosophy is Faulty**

The correctional philosophy underpinning the Budget Crime Plan reflects an unsubstantiated belief in the deterrent effect of harsh sentences and prison confinement. Contrary to experience and evidence, the philosophy reflects a conviction that crime in the community can be positively affected by incapacitation of whomever can be apprehended.

Ironically, this faulty, and increasingly illogical, philosophy has dramatically influenced Wisconsin correctional policies during the past ten years. Good programs have been shortchanged by the channeling of growing resources into incarceration for its own sake.

The result is dangerously overcrowded prisons and jails and reprehensible racial and economic oppression with virtually no effect on community safety or substance abuse.

### **... The Budget Crime Plan Fails Specifically**

1. ***It is too expensive.*** Whether "truth in sentencing" costs \$440 million, \$560 million, somewhere in between or way beyond, it is more millions on top of millions already invested in the same failed plan. A doubled incarceration rate in ten years has not made communities safer; it has not reduced the rate of reoffense; it has not restored ex-offenders to their families and their communities. It has instead left this state with a dwindling pool of dollars for schools, health care, economic development -- the very expenditures which thwart crime by instilling a climate of opportunity, growth, and hope.
2. ***It tells good citizens their needs don't matter.*** At the expense of essential services for the honest majority of citizens, the Budget Crime Plan directs burgeoning dollars and resources into the punishment of a small minority, whose behavior we already know will not be positively affected by the punishment.
3. ***It decimates poor and minority communities.*** In minority communities brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters are disproportionately arrested and incarcerated, often far from home and family -- the most powerful behavior change factor there is. Young people go into the system undereducated, unemployed, addicted, angry, and without hope. At best, they return the same way. Ever scarcer resources leave conditions in the community to chance and charity. And the cycle goes on.
4. ***It defies what is known about human behavior.*** "We are replacing time off for good behavior with more time in for bad behavior," the Governor says, embracing a philosophy that fosters hostility and resentment instead of self-determination and fulfillment. Without incentives for good behavior, the prison system will increasingly become a dangerous and psychologically damaging environment in which to work.
5. ***It ignores enormous health care costs of long incarceration.*** As long as criminal behavior has been studied, the evidence has shown the perpetrators are primarily the young. Medically, they are an extremely needy population. A very small number of people going into prison are over 40, but the Budget Crime Plan will keep many offenders in prison well into old age and failing health. Health care, like every other service, is exorbitantly more expensive when provided within the correctional system.

6. **It assumes private industry in the prisons is a miraculous cure-all.** With more and more private industries getting their work done inside prisons by inmates who are paid "fair wages" (which are turned over to the state for room and board, restitution, child support, and taxes), the Governor claims inmates will "work their way out of a life of crime." Even if every inmate were able and capable of accessing these jobs, it's unrealistic to believe jobs will be waiting outside. Why would any industry expand in the community when it has a captive work force constantly growing? And without incentives, most industries have shown great resistance to hiring anyone with a criminal record once that fact is known.
7. **It extends state control with no resources for support.** Under the Budget Crime Plan, the sentence never seems to end no matter what the individual circumstance. "We are *requiring* judges to impose a strict term of confinement in prison and also impose an extended period of supervision *after the sentence is completely served*," the Governor declares. "The extended supervision must amount to at least 25 percent of the prison sentence." But he is silent on any positive support that might make a difference in the lives of the ones who are watched. Should the watched one misstep, it's right back to prison under the Budget Crime Plan. No talk of due process.
8. **Finally, the Budget Crime Plan is one of negativism, seemingly hastily drawn without thorough study, evaluation, and collaborative development.** Every citizen in the state of Wisconsin, law-abiding and law-breaking, deserves far better from their top elected officials.

**Because the comprehensive plan presented by the Governor's Task Force on Sentencing and Corrections calls for systemic change to correct failing correctional policies with actions which . . .**

- manage the risk to public safety
- provide a continuum of confinement and control, from severe to minimal, expending corrections dollars rationally
- provide affordable services and support that result in behavior changes
- involve the community and the offender in a lasting process of restoration and reintegration
- invest tax dollars back in the communities which need to resolve environmental, social, and economic problems contributing to crime instead of draining dollars from those communities to create jobs in remote areas and to swell the profits of out-of-state entrepreneurs. . .

**... the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Sentencing and Corrections must command the highest priority as changes are considered in criminal justice policies and financing.**

**None of the Task Force recommendations should be dismissed without full disclosure and documentation of reason to the media and to the public at hearings in Milwaukee and other major urban areas of the State.**

Approved and submitted by the Board of Directors and Staff of the Benedict Center, 229 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, and by the Citizens Advisory Council to the Milwaukee County Criminal Justice System and the Court Action Committee of the Benedict Center and League of Women Voters. March 1997.

For further information or discussion, contact: Kit Murphy McNally, Alternatives Director, Benedict Center (414) 347-1774.

April 4, 1997  
RE: S.A.G.E.

Dear Governor Thompson,

I began the 1997-98 school year in a different way than the previous one. Instead of trying to figure out how to squeeze 25 desks into a small space so everyone could see, I only had 15 desks to contend with and spent my time utilizing the extra space with learning centers and preparing a comfortable learning environment. I also got to know all the families of the children I would be teaching. I met frequently with colleagues as we planned for a school year with excitement because this year offered more possibilities than previous ones. All this and much more was made possible by the S.A.G.E. program.

I am a fairly new teacher as are some of my colleagues. We were moved from other schools and hired because of this new program. We faced the new year with enthusiasm, idealism, and high expectations of our students and ourselves. This school year has met our expectations.

Please do not get the idea that I'm going to tell you this year has been a cake walk, because it has been far from that. Over half my class receives special services for needs ranging from occupational therapy to emotional and learning difficulties. Most of my students are from impoverished families that struggle to make ends meet. They are only in first grade, but because of circumstances out of their control they are already a few steps behind their peers in other communities. The S.A.G.E. program gives them a chance to catch-up with the one advantage of smaller class sizes.

The children in my class receive individualized and personal attention. We do many activities that could not in a classroom of 25 kids. There are no children that get lost in the shuffle because of an overwhelmed teacher and system. We break into small groups for reading and math, and we have learning centers that give children the opportunity to explore and expand their knowledge. In larger classes this could present chaos or require an aide to assist. We are also able to provide for more special events and field trips which are valuable experiences they may otherwise not have.

Parents are an integral part of our classroom. Since before the year began I met with all of them and continue to have regular contact. They know the door is open and they are welcome anytime. They know they are crucial to their child's school success. They know me, we work together to solve problems, generate ideas, and help their children succeed. They know school is a positive place for them and their children. They know all of this because of S.A.G.E. I have the time to meet with them, call them, write newsletters, and organize weekly family homework folders. I would be hard pressed to do all of this with 25 families.

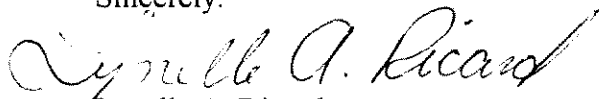
The second and third grade teachers have also met with us all year to prepare for the next few years as their class sizes drop and they anticipate much greater success. As I walk by their rooms cramped full of 26-30 children I think of how elated and successful they will be with only 15 children. What a difference and opportunity for these children



and teachers! It absolutely terrifies me to think of the needy kids in my class shoved into a room with 26 others. I wonder which ones will be lost, go unnoticed, and be unsuccessful.

Finally there was a research study recently published in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel ranking all of the area suburbs according to test scores and achievement. We were close to the bottom. This ranking coincidentally (or not) correlated with community wealth. Now when the community asks what we are going to do about it we can proudly say that we have reduced class sizes and are participating in S.A.G.E. It was promised to us for five years K-3 (and more we pray). But instead now because of budget difficulties and the threat of losing S.A.G.E. we have had ten of those young, enthusiastic, idealistic, and dedicated teachers threatened by lay-off notices. The teachers promised smaller classes are taking a deep sigh and preparing for another overwhelming year. UWM has been evaluating and studying the program. If it stops not only is it a shame but it is also a waste of our money. But most of all are the children who already struggle at such a young age and don't even know what's ahead for them. What a difference this could make in their lives, how incredibly unfair for them and their families. If we don't care about our children, and strive to give them every chance for success, please explain to me what in the world is so much more important? The S.A.G.E. program is such an incredibly small part of the state's budget, but such a crucial one in the lives of our children and community. I urge you to preserve and guarantee S.A.G.E. K-3. Give us the chance we all need to make a difference in the lives of our children.

Sincerely,



Lynelle A. Ricard  
First Grade Teacher  
Park View Elementary School  
5555 So. Nicholson Ave.  
Cudahy, WI. 53110

GOOD MORNING, SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES. MY NAME IS JOHN VOGEL. I HOLD A PH.D. IN AMERICAN HISTORY, AND AM A RESIDENT OF MENOMONEE FALLS. OUR BUSINESS, WHICH IS HEADQUARTERED IN MENOMONEE FALLS, IS HERITAGE RESEARCH. WE ARE HISTORICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS AND I AM THE FIRM'S PRESIDENT AND SENIOR HISTORIAN. AS WELL, I AM A SOMETIME ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY.

IN MY CAREER AS BOTH A BUSINESSMAN AND AN EDUCATOR, I HAVE TRIED HARD TO TEACH THE FACT THAT **HISTORY MATTERS** -- IN THE REAL, EVERY DAY WORLD -- **HISTORY MATTERS**. HISTORY, AFTER ALL, PROVIDES THE VERY BASIS FOR OUR IDENTITY AS AMERICANS IN GENERAL AND WISCONSINITES IN PARTICULAR. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION NOTWITHSTANDING, IT IS OUR HISTORY THAT IDENTIFIES OUR AMERICAN CULTURE AS UNIQUE IN THE WORLD, AND OUR STATE HISTORY THAT SETS WISCONSIN APART FROM THE REST OF THE NATION. WE ARE KNOWN FOR WHAT WE HAVE DONE -- NOT WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO. THAT IS WHY, IF WE ARE TO UNDERSTAND WHO WE ARE AND WHY WE ARE, WE NEED TO KNOW OUR HISTORY. YES, **HISTORY MATTERS**.

AND IT IS BECAUSE HISTORY MATTERS, THAT I AM PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED TO NOTE THAT THE PROPOSED STATE BUDGET INCLUDES A \$200,000 DECREASE IN THE FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PRESENTLY OFFERED BY THE SHSW. HOW CAN WE TEACH THAT HISTORY IS IMPORTANT WHEN, FOR EXAMPLE, FUNDS ARE CUT TO TRAIN AND ASSIST PATRONS WHO WANT TO USE THE STATE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COLLECTIONS; OR WHEN THE FUNDS ARE CUT TO IDENTIFY AND EVALUATE THE MANY SHIPWRECKS ALONG OUR SHORES THAT ARE SO CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH WISCONSIN'S MARITIME HERITAGE; OR WHEN THE FUNDS ARE CUT FOR THE STATE HISTORICAL MUSEUM'S PUBLIC PROGRAMMING EFFORTS -- EFFORTS THAT REACHED 9,500 ATTENDEES LAST YEAR.

HISTORY MATTERS. AND BECAUSE IT DOES, I ASK THAT YOU *PLEASE* RESTORE THE FUNDS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S PROGRAMS. I ALSO ASK, OF COURSE, FOR YOU TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED INCREASES IN THE SHSW BUDGET (i.e. for the automation of the library's circulation system, and the partial funding of the new Northern Great Lakes Center in Ashland). BUT RESTORING THE CUTS IN SERVICES AND PROGRAMS IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY. REMEMBER, THERE IS A GROWING NUMBER OF AMERICANS WHO DID NOT ENDURE THOSE CATAclysmic EVENTS OF THIS CENTURY THAT PROVIDED A COMMON POINT OF REFERENCE FOR ALL -- THE FIRST WORLD WAR, THE DEPRESSION OR THE SECOND WORLD WAR. AND WHILE THAT NUMBER GROWS LARGER, THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS THAT DID EXPERIENCE THOSE EVENTS CONTINUES TO DECLINE. NOW I ASK, LACKING THOSE COMMON POINTS OF REFERENCE, WHAT DOES THAT GROWING NUMBER OF AMERICANS TODAY HAVE INSTEAD? WE HAVE OUR COMMON HISTORY. YES, HISTORY MATTERS. I HOPE THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE REALIZES THIS, AND THAT IT ACTS BOLDLY AND DECISIVELY TO INSURE THAT THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS ABLE TO CONTINUE ITS WORK GATHERING, INTERPRETING AND MAKING AVAILABLE ITS HISTORICAL RESOURCES TO WISCONSIN AND THE NATION.



#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Schools International  
District IV

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Diocese of Green Bay

Diocese of LaCrosse

Diocese of Madison

Diocese of Superior

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
Northern Wisconsin District

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
Southern Wisconsin District

Wisconsin Conference of  
Seventh Day Adventists

Wisconsin Association of  
Independent Schools

Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod

3/7/97

## EQUITY IN TECHNOLOGY

Gov. Tommy Thompson's proposed state budget for 1997-99 calls for \$200 million to accelerate the use of technology by schools and advance education into the 21st century by making investments in educational technology.

However, these efforts do not include providing technology to the 148,848 nonpublic school students enrolled in more than 900 nonpublic schools in Wisconsin. By omitting nonpublic school students, this "comprehensive" technology plan is overlooking 15 percent of the state's school children!

### GETTING EQUITY IN TECHNOLOGY FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO

1. Contact your state Assembly representative and state Senator and ask them to include nonpublic school students in the state's educational technology plan outlined in the state budget.

To be effective, letters should be sent to legislators by April 17, 1997.

If you don't know who your state Senator or state Assembly representative are, call the Wisconsin Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472. In Madison, call 266-9960. The TDD line for the hearing impaired is 1-800-228-2115.

- \* State Senate: Address mail to your state Senator at P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707.
- \* State Assembly: Send mail to representatives with last names beginning A-L to P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708. For representatives with last names beginning M-Z mail to P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708.
- \* Letters also can be faxed to legislators. Dial (608) 266-7038.

### WHAT TO ASK FOR

1. Inclusion for nonpublic schools students in the educational technology access program that provides special, low rates for data and video links to schools. The Governor's budget bill requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to establish an educational telecommunications access program under which school districts are provided high speed data transfer lines or 2-way interactive video links for not more than \$250 per month per data line or video link. Any costs exceeding \$250 per month are paid from the universal service fund, which is funded by private telecommunication companies.

The language in the budget bill ought to be clarified to include nonpublic schools.

--OVER--

2. Inclusion in the program that allows schools to lease educational technology equipment with an option to buy. The Governor's budget bill permits school districts, CESAs and public educational institutions to lease educational technology equipment from the state with an option to purchase the equipment. This equipment would be leased through the TEAWB (Technology for Educational Achievement in Wisconsin Board).

The language and intent of the budget bill ought to be changed to clarify that nonpublic educational institutions are allowed to participate.

3. Nonpublic school representation on the TEAWB (Technology for Educational Achievement in Wisconsin Board). This Board is appointed by the Governor and oversees the implementation of the state's educational technology initiatives.

A representative from nonpublic k-12 schools must be appointed to the Board to ensure equitable participation for nonpublic school students.

#### WHY STUDENTS IN NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS SHOULD BE INCLUDED

A. Justice. It is simple justice to ensure that all of the state's school children have access to educational technologies.

Currently, 15 percent of the state's school children (148,848) attend nonpublic schools. No program that ignores such a substantial percentage of the state's school children can be considered equitable.

B. Precedent. The state's role in facilitating nonpublic school students access to technology is no different than building a public road to the door of a nonpublic school house. It is no different than bringing public water and sewer lines to the walls of the nonpublic school or ensuring that private companies bring telephone lines to the nonpublic school.

C. Cost Savings. The vast majority of nonpublic school children attend kindergarten through 8th grade and go on to public high schools. (Of the state's 148,848 nonpublic school children, only 24,088 attend nonpublic high schools in the 1995-96 school year. The remaining 124,760 nonpublic school children attend elementary schools and graduated on to public high schools.)

If students in nonpublic schools are not given comparable access to educational technologies, they will be ill-prepared and will need remedial education when they arrive at the state's public schools. Such education is expensive and will be a burden on the already tightly controlled public school budgets.

D. Inclusion is consistent with recommendations to the Legislature by the Public Service Commission. In its January 1996 report to the Joint Committee on Information Policy, the Public Service Commission pointed out, correctly, that most private schools are too scattered to make their own cooperative efforts cost effective in the area of technology.

The Commission also correctly noted that nonpublic schools lack access to funding and resources needed to finance educational technologies.

As a result of these realities, the Commission recommended that "government agencies make an effort to remove barriers that make it difficult to share telecommunications networks between public and nonpublic schools, and nonpublic schools should be included in the planning process."

For more information, contact Sharon Schmeling at the Wisconsin Association of Nonpublic Schools at (608) 257-0004.

## PROGRAM ABSTRACT

### Organization Overview

The South Side Guadalupe Dental Clinic is a community-based agency that provides high quality, low-cost or free dental services to residents of the near south side of Milwaukee. The Clinic serves those who might otherwise not receive dental care including Spanish-speaking individuals and families with language and cultural barriers to receiving care; the uninsured working poor, including migrant workers; and the homeless. In addition, increased effort is being made to reach out to the Asian population who are moving to this neighborhood in increasing numbers.

The Clinic has been a successful program providing access to health services to a community needing this service. In addition, the Clinic generates over \$350,000 in volunteered time by dental professionals which otherwise would not come into this community. Currently, the Clinic, which has a bilingual and bicultural staff, primarily serves the Hispanic population living in its neighborhood. It is obvious that a neighborhood based, free or low cost, bilingual/bicultural clinic will provide accessibility to a sizable population that would otherwise not obtain dental care. Of particular importance is the focus on children and families.

In a recent RFP from the Department of Maternal and Child Health, the Wisconsin Department of Health declared poor dental health as the most curable epidemic in the state. South Side Guadalupe works through the schools to provide sealants and other preventative care with children who will benefit throughout their lives from this intervention. Given the lack of dental insurance among low-income households, the Clinic's low-cost services are in high demand and the services are utilized to capacity. Annually, over 2,000 persons are served with over 5,000 dental visits. The Clinic operates on a sliding-fee basis and charges only a nominal fee for the indigent. Homeless families and individual are served free; when federal funds are available, Health Care for the Homeless underwrites this service with a special grant to the Clinic. Especially with the Hispanic population, the Clinic serves as a referral source for other health and social service needs with families that are often unconnected to these networks due to language and cultural barriers. Hispanic families often require this important linkage in order to respond to their children's health needs.

The Clinic is requesting \$121,000 to cover our basic operational expenses. The Clinic has remained true to its mission of serving those who otherwise could not afford services. It has faithfully served the community for over 29 years. At this time, the stability of the community depends on maintaining the integrity of those institutions with a history of serving the people. Therefore, the Clinic deserves the needed funding to continue to provide the community with a health care institution that is accessible and sensitive to its cultural/linguistic needs.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

### **Program Objectives**

The Clinic addresses the SDC/CSBG need area of *Health Care Assess* by both providing dental care and prevention services to a population that otherwise might not be served, especially focused on Hispanic children and families. In addition, the Clinic is a source of referrals to other health and social service agencies. The program addresses the following OCS national goal: *The conditions in which low-income people live are improved*. Improving health care access and also providing referrals for residents who may be detached from health and social service networks because of cultural and language barriers is an important level of improving the conditions of the community. Further, a community depends on stable community institutions, by providing services in the community continuously since 1968, the Clinic adds to that stability.

Specific objectives of the program are:

1. Providing 2,000 residents with at least 5,000 hours of dental care
2. Providing a training site to Marquette student dentists, hygienists, and dental assistance in order to sensitize them to the needs of Hispanic families in particular and low-income families in general.
3. Providing screenings and/or the application sealants to at least 600 children in neighborhood schools and the community in general.
4. Providing at least 10 educational sessions on dental health at the schools, Head Start sites, and other community agencies serving children and families.

### **Population to be Served**

The population served by the Clinic is mostly from their immediate neighborhood, an area which is composed primarily of low income households. Milwaukee County data from December 1992 indicates that 51.2% of the population in the 53204 zip code (the working definition of the neighborhood) receives Income Maintenance Support. This includes 36.7% of the population who receive AFDC and 48.6% of the population who receive food stamps. Particularly alarming is the fact that between June 1991 and December 1992 the percentage receiving food stamps rose from 43.3% to 48.6%

The Hispanic population in Milwaukee is growing and in ever greater need of services. According to the most recent census information, the total Hispanic population in Milwaukee is 44,671. This population is heavily concentrated on the near South Side where the Clinic is located. As of 1993, there were only five licensed Hispanic dentists in the City of Milwaukee, and only two of these were practicing in the Hispanic community.

The importance of serving this population can be indicated by data from Marquette Dental School. In the early '90s, only 5% of the patients at their main clinic were of Hispanic origin. Given the income levels of the clientele and the location of the Dental School Clinic, this is considerably lower than would be expected. Staff at the Dental School attribute this to the reluctance of the Hispanic population to seek treatment except when there is a crisis or chronic pain requiring urgent treatment.

In addition, effort is being made to serve Asian community which is now living in this area. While the Clinic is not staffed to specifically serve this community, the cultural sensitivity is an asset in working with Asian community groups to assure that children receive dental care.

### **Program Implementation**

In order to implement its mission, the Clinic provides the community accessibility on four levels:

- Geographically, it is located in the heart of the community it serves — within walking distance of a good portion of its clientele and easily accessible to others by bus.
- With its bilingual/bicultural staff, the Clinic is accessible to the Hispanic community
- The sliding fee and low-cost policies provide accessibility to low-income families
- The small, intimate environment attracts those who fear impersonal institutions

The composite geographic and cultural/language accessibility is critical in that the area is underserved both geographically and culturally, as noted above. The Wisconsin Department of Health has identified the near South Side as one of the 38 Health Manpower Shortage Areas.

A unique aspect of the Clinic has been its relationship with Marquette University School of Dentistry. The Clinic, since its inception has been an outreach site for student dentists. This relationship has provided the community with dental services, at the same time it has sensitized student dentists to the cultural and economic issues of the Hispanic community and low income families in general. In addition, the Clinic serves as a training site for dental hygienists from Marquette and dental assistants through Goodwill Industries.

The Clinic offers children and families the following services:

- Dental screenings, including x-rays
- Sealants and fluoride treatments
- Dental cleaning
- Fillings, caps, crowns, partials and plates
- Education on dental health and referrals to other health and social services.

As noted, the Board is always composed of a significant number of community members in order to assure that the Clinic remains sensitive in its mission of serving low-income and Hispanic families.

## **RESULTS/OUTCOMES**

### **Strategies**

The strategies to be used to achieve our goals will be based both on past experience and on new ideas. The Clinic has many users who come to the Clinic based on either past family history or else the Clinic's reputation. In addition, the screening program in the schools is an extremely important outreach mechanism for getting to new families who are in great need



of dental services. This program also offers a mechanism for reaching Asian families. The Clinic also provides dental hygiene classes to Guadalupe Head Start (which is next door) and children there are referred to the Clinic for screenings and other dental services. The Clinic has a history of providing dental hygiene educational sessions in the schools and at other community organizations. The Clinic needs more funds for dentists to meet the success of its outreach, i.e., outreach is not the problem but having the capacity to provide the services is the limitation. In addition, in collaboration with Health Care for the Homeless, homeless persons are referred to the Clinic from shelters.

New strategies to be implemented in the coming year include:

1. Expand the screening clinic concept currently utilized in the schools of other agencies with many low income children, i.e., the Salvation Army and the homeless shelters. This means taking the service directly to the agency.
2. Establishing a work exchange with homeless and other indigent persons—they provide their skills or work time in exchange for dental services.
3. Work with other agencies and Milwaukee County DHSS in increasing the participation of Medicaid patients in obtaining dental care, especially for children.
4. Establish more formal relationships with Asian community agencies, including using the dental screening clinic at their site.

### **Expected Outcomes**

The outcomes are measured by office records and files documenting patient visits. Likewise, files are kept on all screenings of children done in the schools. Records are also kept of all outreach presentations on dental health. If it becomes apparent that there are more missed appointments than usual, this would be corrected by stronger reminder calls and other follow-up. If the clinic were not booked to capacity, further outreach would be done with community agencies and other health facilities in the area.

The expected outcomes are the numbers stated in the objectives above. History indicates that this will be achieved. Further, it is expected that the new strategies will be employed with resulting increases in Asian and Medicaid clients, especially children. Efforts will be made to expand the funding for dentists, thus allowing the Clinic to provide services to an even greater number of families.

## **STAFFING QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Staff Positions**

#### **FULL-TIME POSITIONS**

Executive Director

Coordinator of the program; fund development

Community/Clinic Coordinator

Office and grant manager/community liaison;  
coordinates screening program with schools

Dental Assistant/Outreach Worker	Dental Assistant; dental health educator; outreach
Administrative Secretary	Clerical Support; record keeping
Dentist	

#### **PART-TIME POSITIONS**

Dental Assistants (2)  
Dentists (4)  
Senior Aide (1), Clerical support  
Senior Aide (1), Maintenance work

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteer dentists (10)  
Dental hygienist (1)  
Student dentists (3-Marquette University)  
Student Dental Assistants (2-Goodwill Industries)

#### **Qualifications**

Resumes are provided upon request. All of the professional staff have proper training and qualifications for their positions. The dentists also have considerable community experience. The Executive Director has been in his position since 1987.

#### **Staff Cultural Diversity**

One of the strengths of the Clinic is the diversity of staff and volunteers. Of the full-time positions, there are held by Hispanics and one dental assistant/outreach worker is held by an African-American. The Clinic actively recruits staff from the community it serves. For this reason, the Clinic looks to hiring an Asian-American staff person as soon as new positions are available. The Board also includes an Asian member. The Clinic has always had a predominantly Hispanic staff, mirroring the community which it serves.



April 8, 1997

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

From: Richard Barthel, Assistant Executive Director

Senator Burke, Representative Jensen, Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Richard Barthel. I am affiliated with Independence First, the center for independent living which serves the four county Metro-Milwaukee area. I am also a gubernatorial appointee to the Governor's Council on Physical Disabilities and appreciate this opportunity to provide insight into the current budget bill.

**W2 and Persons with Disabilities:** I am particularly concerned the Wisconsin's W2 initiatives may severely penalize persons with disabilities who are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

First, parents on SSI who have children receiving Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC) will experience up to a 65% reduction in support for those children. Those children will now receive only \$77 per month in support. It is ironical that those same children would receive \$215 per month if living with relatives. Please revise current language to allow these children to receive support at levels which would allow them to remain in their own homes.

Second, W2 initiatives also penalize adults who are receiving SSI and who are attempting to enter the workforce. The Social Security Administration has several programs which encourage adults receiving SSI to return to the workforce while continuing to benefit from continuing medical coverage, for example. Over the last fifteen months IndependenceFirst has been involved in a pilot program with the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in order to encourage use of such benefits for persons who are attempting to return to the workforce. However, current W2 language denies these persons all of the benefits which others seeking jobs are offered including job placement, child care subsidies and financial planning and other assistance if they have dependent children. Again, please note the irony of the federal government encouraging people to work while the State places every conceivable obstacle in their path. Please change legislative language to allow SSI recipients to benefit from State assistance while seeking employment.

Formerly SEWCIL

600 West Virginia, Suite 300  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204-1516  
FAX 291-7510 • TTY 291-7525  
Voice 414 291-7520

Third, W2 initiatives also end child care subsidies for children who reach the age of 12. For severely disabled children who cannot manage on their own I ask that you expand child care subsidies to allow parents the opportunity to work without compromising their children's safety and well being.

There are other work disincentives as well built into the current W2 program for persons with disabilities. Please review recommendations made by the ABLE Coalition and the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Association.

**Medical Assistance (MA) Copayments:** The current budget proposal increases Title 19 copayments to the federal maximum and institutes a new \$2.50 copayment for medically necessary transportation. For a person traveling to and from a rehabilitation center for treatment, and filling a prescription on the way home, the new costs could equal nearly \$10. It appears to be outright foolish to discourage low-income people from accessing needed health care-the alternative is worsened health status and higher costs. The transportation copayment is especially onerous and should be reversed.

**Nursing Homes vs. Community Care:** The \$132 million increase for nursing homes is 110% the cost of operating the Community Options Program (COP) and COP Waiver programs. I have already spoken to many of you who have indicated that the federal government, under the Boren amendment, requires states to provide such increases. What you may not know, however, is that states are free to develop their own formulas for increases. The increase proposed in the budget is especially suspect when your own departmental estimates show that the number of persons funded by Title 19 is expected to decrease over the biennium.

As a matter of fairness, return funding to community-based programs where people have choices and where they say they would rather be. There are 8,900 people on the COP waiting list at the current time while no waiting lists exist for nursing homes.

The budget also allows nursing homes to temporarily "delicense" beds and thereby gain higher reimbursement from the Medical Assistance program. This is a truly extreme example of bad policy which drives up MA costs while doing nothing to target the tremendous backlog of requests for community support.

**Independent Living Centers:** My Center receives \$62,000 in state GPR and another \$160,000 from the federal government to provide services to persons of all ages and disabilities in our Metro-area of over 1.7 million people. Our last increase was in 1989. The Departmental budget recommendation was to provide a

modest \$200,000 each year to provide some relief to all current Independent Living Center budgets, and to ease caseloads in our counties and that of the Center in Green Bay which serves one-quarter of the state.

**Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan:** The Risk Sharing Plan is a state program which provides insurance to those who have circumstances which render them ineligible for standard health insurance coverage. The budget proposal would restrict health care access to those providers in the Medical Assistance program. The proposal is not needed since the program has shown effective management of resources via intensive case review procedures and sharply reduced provider assessments. Please reject this initiative as it has little basis in economics and was forwarded without the knowledge of the HIRSP Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to address these budget issues. I welcome any of your questions.

April 8, 1997

Senator Brian Burke  
and

Wisconsin Senators and Representatives:

I ~~regret~~ regret that I cannot remain here to give testimony before you at the United Community Center. I must return to my place of employment.

Please consider this letter my objection to the Governor's budget proposal that would undercut legislation already passed by the Senate regarding the Mining Moratorium.

The Governor's language would require that a mine will use "proven technology." Such "proven technology" language is VAGUE.

The Final decision on what constitutes "proven technology" will be made by political appointees.

This is a travesty and a sham. We know where our governor stands on this issue. We know who the political appointees would most likely be.

Certainly NOT the citizens of Wisconsin who oppose the Exxon + other mines. The overturning of the town Board of Nashville who were pro-mining is a clear indication of how Wisconsin residents feel about mining in Wisconsin.

Let us continue to say NO to Exxon and NO to <sup>sub</sup>sidizing of our natural resources.

We would rather cherish, protect and enjoy them. Please remove from the budget the language regarding metallic mining permitting. Retain the Mining Moratorium Bill as originally proposed. Thank you.

Christine Zapf 4240 S.  
Sunny Slope Rd. New Berlin, WI

8 APRIL 97

SENATOR BURKE, SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES:

I WAS UNABLE TO ARRIVE AT THE HEARING TODAY UNTIL 3.45 DUE TO WORK OBLIGATIONS, SO I WAS TOO LATE TO REGISTER TO SPEAK.

AS A UNION MEMBER, I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THE GLUT OF TELEVISION COMMERCIALS THAT Aired EARLIER THIS YEAR WITH A LOCAL UNION PRESIDENT SUPPORTING THE GRAND MINING COMPANY (EXXON/RO ALGOM). THESE ADS DO NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF INFORMED UNION MEMBERS ON THE SUBJECT OF METALLIC SULFIDE MINING. AS A STEELWORKER, MEMBERS OF OTHER UNIONS HAVE ASKED ME, "WHAT ARE THE STEELWORKERS DOING?"; REGARDING THE AD WITH THE STEELWORKER PRESIDENT. UNFORTUNATELY, UNION MEMBERS NOT INFORMED ON THE MATTER THINK THAT THE APPEARANCE OF A LOCAL STEELWORKER PRESIDENT (WITH USWA EMBLEM BEHIND HIM) CONSTITUTES WHOLE HEARTED ~~AND~~ AGREEMENT WITH HIS POSITION. DESPITE SOME BELIEF TO THE CONTRARY, UNIONS DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO PUT FORTH A SLICK, FAR-REACHING AD CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER EXXON/RO ALGOM'S.

I PERSONALLY KNOW OF SOME LOCAL UNIONS THAT HAVE PASSED RESOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE MINING MORATORIUM BILL AS WRITTEN BY SENATOR BLACK. THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION IN BEING A UNION MEMBER & BEING AN ENVIRONMENTALIST. JOBS ~~AND~~ PROTECTION OF RESOURCES, BOTH HUMAN & NATURALLY-OCCURRING, ARE IMPORTANT TO UNION MEMBERS & NON-UNION MEMBERS Alike, BUT TO SACRIFICE OUR ENVIRONMENT FOR A RELATIVE FEW (+NOT NECESSARILY LOCAL NOR UNION) JOBS IS SHORT-SIGHTED & WRONG.

DON'T WATER DOWN REPRESENTATIVE BLACK'S BILL. IT'S A GOOD, COMMON-SENSE, ERR-ON-THE-SIDE-OF-SAFETY MEASURE. TRY TO BRING IT TO A VOTE PROMPTLY & PASS IT DECISIVELY. IT IS IN THE LONG-TERM INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN, MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE & MAKES A SINCERE COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT.

THANK YOU!  
GERALD GUNDERSON  
5019 W. FILLMORE DR.  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53219

Testimony of Bruce Thompson on Expanded Charter School Proposal  
4/8/97

My name is Bruce Thompson. One week ago today I was elected on a reform platform to the Milwaukee School Board for the Fifth District, representing the East and near South sides of this city. In addition, I own the Downtown Montessori School and make my living as a professor at the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

I speak today for myself, not as a representative of any organization. But my testimony reflects my experience, especially during the last six months of campaigning and the thousands of conversations I have had with parents, teachers, and citizens in my district concerned about the state of our schools.

Our families need more and better options. Lacking sufficient satisfactory educational opportunities, families who can afford to are fleeing Milwaukee. This has a very negative effect on the economic viability of our neighborhoods and the quality of the education of the students who remain. It contributes to increasing economic, racial, and social segregation in our society.

MPS is subjected to powerful pressure groups that oppose any change in the status quo. It also suffers from a creaky bureaucracy, which too often resists responding to the needs of families.

Allowing greater use of charter schools will help see that the educational needs of my constituents are better served. Let me list three possible areas where they can help:

- I found a great desire on the East Side for a small school that would serve its community and help keep families in the city.
- Small focused schools can often serve the needs of children who would otherwise disrupt education in our large public schools.
- Charter schools, particularly on the South Side could relieve the terrible overcrowding in our elementary schools leading to better education for both the children in the charter schools and those remaining in the public schools.

Therefore I encourage you to strengthen Wisconsin's charter school law, by allowing additional sponsors and by clarifying that a charter school may be an instrumentality of MPS.

Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Bruce Thompson  
332-6267



Remarks to the Joint Committee on Finance

April 8, 1997

by Alex Simpson

810 Waters Edge, Racine, WI

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the University of Wisconsin System. I have first hand knowledge of the University through many associations with the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. My daughter is a graduate of UW-Parkside and I have served as a volunteer to the University in several capacities including president of the institutionally related foundation. In addition, prior to my retirement as vice chairman of Modine Manufacturing in Racine, I had the pleasant opportunity to work with many Modine employees who were graduates of the University.

I am here to urge you to support the budget of the University of Wisconsin System because I believe the University is an invaluable resource to the state as a whole. Clearly, we have benefited in southeastern Wisconsin, particularly in Racine and Kenosha, from having the University of Wisconsin-Parkside campus in our community. Nearly three-fourths of the graduates of this institution live and work in these two counties. Many of the managers and technical professionals in local businesses are graduates of the University. Many local physicians, dentists, and teachers are graduates as well. And many of our elected officials--including three of our representatives and both of our senators--are graduates.

It is important that the University of Wisconsin System be sufficiently funded to maintain its position as a leader in higher education. In order to do so, we must be willing to provide sufficient general purpose revenues to support high quality academic programs and the latest learning technologies. We need to provide competitive salaries for our faculty and staff since they really are the reason we have excellent and respected public universities in this state. I urge you to find the general purpose revenues which will

provide at least a 4 percent annual increase for faculty and staff in each year of the 1997-99 biennium.

I also urge you to keep higher education in this state affordable. We have one of the highest attendance rates at our public universities of any state in the union and we should preserve that kind of accessibility. Therefore, I urge you to maintain the state's historic position of covering two-thirds of the cost of educating an undergraduate student with general tax dollars. I also urge you to support increased funding for the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant program.

Finally, I want to speak in support of the management flexibilities which the Board of Regents seek and which the Governor has recommended in the University System budget, including the provision which would allow the Regents to spend up to 105% of tuition revenue if revenues are greater than anticipated due to higher enrollments. These flexibilities will help improve effectiveness and efficiency, one of the top priorities included in the Regents' 1996 Study of the UW System in the 21st Century. I also urge your support for re-authorization of the Tuition Award Program which benefits the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

Increasingly, well educated citizens are essential to the economic, civic, and cultural well-being of our state. If we are to maintain our leadership in the global political and economic arena of the Twenty-first Century, we must maintain the quality of our higher educational institutions.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

Testimony before the Joint Committee on Finance  
United Community Center - Milwaukee  
April 8, 1997

146 Retailers  
136 Smokers Rights  
members

My name is Dave Nelson and I am president of Wisconsin Smokers' Rights. I appreciate the opportunity to address the members of the state Joint Committee on Finance about the proposal in the budget to raise the cigarette tax by 5 cents per pack.

Our group represents <sup>roughly 1 million</sup> [number] of adult smokers in our state who are fed up with measures clearly aimed at punishing us for the legal choice we've made to smoke. We firmly believe that our government should not use taxes, restrictive ordinances, or any other actions as weapons to control our lives.

The governor's budget includes a proposal to increase the cigarette tax by five cents, bringing the tax to 49 cents per pack. Some have argued that smokers should be grateful that only a five cent tax is being proposed and not the 56 cents per pack increase over two years that was proposed last year.

On the contrary, we are against this tax for several reasons:

- Cigarettes are one of the highest taxed products in this country, and Wisconsin smokers already pay enough taxes for their cigarettes. Legislators have already indicated that this 5-cent increase is just the beginning. Smokers, they said, can expect to be hit with incremental tax increases over several years.
- There is no need for a tax increase. After all, Wisconsin is not currently facing a budget crisis. If our state treasury needs more money, legislators need to come up with fair and effective ways to generate it — like cutting unnecessary spending.

*We feel*

It is unfair to single out one group of citizens to pay for services that all of us benefit from. If our state needs money for particular programs or to balance the budget, every citizen in the state should have to contribute to the effort — not just smokers.

*Foster Care?*

- Sales taxes increases invariably mean declining sales for retailers. And tobacco sales account for a large percentage of most retail stores' profits. This tax increase would amount to nothing more than a drain on legitimate retail profits. And after all, cigarettes are a legal product for adult smokers to purchase and retailers to sell.
- Tobacco products are an easy target for tax increases. Not everyone smokes and those that don't are eager to vote yes for a tax that won't apply to them.

- A tax increase on adult smokers is not the way to stop kids from smoking. Last year, the Special Committee on Minors and Tobacco advocated the 56-cent-per-pack increase as a way to discourage minors from buying cigarettes. However, studies have clearly shown that raising cigarette taxes does not lead to an overall reduction in smoking. When cigarette taxes are raised people don't stop smoking, they just change their buying habits. They purchase low-cost brands, cross state borders for lower taxed products, or turn to the underground market. If we are going to address underage smoking, we must focus on education, enforcement, and parental involvement. The problem won't be solved by making retailers or their adult customers the scapegoats.

DECLINING  
Revenue

I urge the members of the committee, on behalf of Wisconsin Smokers' Rights, to strike the 5-cent-per-pack increase from the 1997 budget proposal. Thank you.

EXCISE TAXES HURT THOSE WHO CAN LEAST  
AFFORD IT. LOW & MIDDLE CLASS

$$\begin{array}{r} 4.90 \\ \underline{1.70} \\ 4.20 \\ \underline{3.00} \\ 1.20 \end{array}$$

**To:** State Budget Hearing  
**From:** Sharon DeWitt on behalf of Milwaukee County  
Prevention Providers Collaborative  
**Subject:** Prevention and the budget

## MEMORANDUM

The Prevention Providers Collaborative is comprised of agencies providing prevention services to youth and families in Milwaukee County. The collaborative began in 1988 with four agencies. Today, we consist of 11 prevention providers and they are the following:

- ▶ Carter Child Development Center
- ▶ New Concept Development Center
- ▶ 53204 Council
- ▶ United Community Center's Decisions for Youth Program
- ▶ Counseling Center of Milwaukee
- ▶ Next Door Foundation
- ▶ Career Youth Development
- ▶ United Community Center
- ▶ Milwaukee Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
- ▶ United Migrant Opportunity Services
- ▶ Harambee Imani I

### WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Prevention Providers Collaborative believes"

- ◆ Prevention is cost-effective
- ◆ Prevention works
- ◆ All youth and families should have equal access to comprehensive prevntion services.

### OUR MISSION

We are committed to working together in order to fully utilize existing prevention resources and to advocate for services that meet the community's identified alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention needs.

Our concern:

Due to recent changes in the child welfare system, we have ~~started~~<sup>may</sup> to lose a network of prevention providers that has taken ten or more years to develop. This network includes the aforementioned agencies.

\$500,000 annually has been spent by Milwaukee County for the services provided by the collaborative. A small amount when viewed against the anticipated \$120 million, the State will spend as it takes over the child welfare delivery system for the county.

This collaborative has educated our youth to the harmful effects of alcohol and other drug abuse. Prevention helps to reduce the cost of intervention. Remember, there is a clear distinction between prevention and intervention. Prevention efforts cannot and should not be taken lightly.

Can the state and county authorities refuse to see the truth about a front line of defense that has credibility and success as their standard. Help us maintain our lead in the prevention of drug use by our youth by supporting the Prevention Providers Collaborative. We need to continue to receive funds in this time of disappearing funds



## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

1126 South 70th Street, Suite S-413A, West Allis, Wisconsin 53214 (414)-475-2100

### STATEMENT TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN APRIL 8, 1997

The executive budget submitted in February to the state legislature contains disappointing proposals for correctional policy in the state of Wisconsin. Ignoring the final recommendations of his appointed Task Force on Sentencing and Corrections; ignoring the daunting cost projections of continuing current correctional policy, the Governor proposes more of the same---longer sentences and an end to parole and mandatory release.

Just two years ago the Governor's charge to that Task Force was : "Our resources, both human and financial are limited, ...make recommendations on how current corrections resources can be maximized to reduce and manage risk in the community ..."

The Task Force took the view that threats to personal safety and property are local, and by continuing prison building programs we would consume the resources that might otherwise be used in the communities to which almost all prisoners eventually return. They recommended the more cost effective approach of strengthening the resources controlling behavior in the community. The establishment of Community Confinement and Control facilities would provide a type of imprisonment that could serve as a confinement, a short term sanction, a mandatory placement prior to prison release, or secure treatment. Correctional supervisors would have the authority and flexibility to intervene in risk control as needed

This proposal to provide facilities and increase the authority to more closely supervise the reintegration of offenders into the community of work and social interaction is a positive step in community safety. We view this as a type of protection or crime prevention as well as rehabilitative assistance. Such a change in corrections policy would have a significant financial impact here in Milwaukee County where the taxpayers are shouldering the increasing expense of an overcrowded jail and criminal justice system.

The League supports the Governor's inclusion of statutory language allowing the Department of Corrections to implement a pilot program based on these recommendations but it is very disappointing that this Task Force's important work has been virtually ignored as a basis for correctional policy discussion.

We also urge legislators to be aware that the financial focus on community corrections has been quite effective in Minnesota, thus allowing prison space for offenders who need long term incarceration. By providing funding for adequate community corrections efforts, this state spends less on corrections than Wisconsin and also has a crime rate below the national average.

The Governor's budget initiative of longer sentences and ending parole and mandatory release offers no explanation of its effects or costs. The Task Force itself rejected a similar proposal because of the enormous costs attached and indeed that is supported by past projections of over \$300 million by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

The League of Women Voters also rejects the Governor's proposal to eliminate parole and in effect require the building of more prisons. We believe that the increase in building costs will reduce the resources available for effective implementation of community safety programs. Longer sentences don't eliminate offenders returning to communities, and it will likely mean there will be insufficient funding for supervision and support. This is a troublesome element of correctional policy in the state of Wisconsin that needs to be addressed.

The recent study done by Wisconsin Correctional Service tabulating all the criminal and traffic cases in Milwaukee County closed in 1995 (March 8, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel) confirms that there are other methods of crime control and correction that could serve our state more effectively. The reasonable and proper public safety belief "Every dangerous offender should be locked up" must not become translated into "Every offender is so dangerous they must be locked up."

We urge the legislature to reject the budget proposals and to make correctional policy decisions based on a carefully planned strategy that addresses future needs and available fiscal resources.



**JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING  
1997-98 BIENNIAL BUDGET**

Tuesday, April 8, 1997  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Statement of the Hon. Gerald P. Ptacek in support of the executive budget as it relates to CCAP (Circuit Court Automation Program):**

As a Circuit Court Judge since 1988 and a member of the CCAP Steering Committee since 1990, I urge your support of the provisions in the Governor's 1997-98 biennial budget that apply to CCAP. These provisions include:

1) **The establishment of an Equipment Replacement Fund** which would be funded by a \$2 increase in the Justice Information Fee. CCAP has established computer networks at 70 courthouses consisting of more than 2,300 workstations and 1,000 printers; it has an inventory of over \$16 million in computer hardware and software. This fund would be used to update and/or replace equipment for county users; and

2) **Convert 23 Project Positions to Permanent.** This change results in no additional cost. It is consistent with the permanent, ongoing nature of CCAP.

As a judge, I see CCAP at work on a daily basis. It is important and invaluable to the functioning of the trial courts in Wisconsin. All Wisconsin Counties except 2 have chosen to use CCAP to automate their court records and functions. Computer networks using case management software have been installed in 69 Wisconsin Counties. Recent accomplishments include:

a) installation of **financial system software** in 53 counties with all requesting counties to be installed during 1998. This system allows for record keeping regarding fees, fines, forfeitures, bonds using double-entry accounting principles. It includes components to improve financial collections;

b) **public access workstations** have been installed in all requesting counties (65) providing access to court records to the public;

c) installation of a **new jury system** in 40 counties since January 1, 1997. This complies with new Wisconsin Supreme Court jury rules and will be installed in all counties prior to the effective date of the new rules on July 1, 1997;

d) all CCAP counties have received software changes to accommodate the **New Juvenile Code**;

e) CCAP has entered into a **cooperative agreement with BJIS** (Bureau of Justice Information Systems) in DOA to establish a statewide network for Wisconsin District Attorneys.

CCAP is a successful, invaluable automation program and is vital to the Wisconsin Court System. I urge your support of the provisions in the Governor's budget which recognize the value of CCAP and will help to assure its vitality in the future. Thank you.

### ***The need for a UWM physical therapy program:***

The governor's most recent budget again failed to include funding for physical and occupational therapy programs for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. As a modern learning institution and the second largest school in the Wisconsin it is important that UW-M stay abreast of current occupational demands, including one of the fastest growing professional occupations-- physical therapy.

*There are several reasons for the need:*

1. The generation of the "Baby Boomers" is aging and with age comes health problems:

- \* For instance, bones begin to become increasingly brittle by a decrease of calcium utilization and the ability to produce materials for the bone matrix which increases easier fractions compared to a younger person. These adverse changes in bones begin as early as the early forties for women and mid-to-late fifties for men.

- \* Starting at the age of about forty, muscles begin to weaken and become smaller and dehydrated; the force generated by a muscle decreases by 30-40% also beginning at the age of forty. As a result of the reduced mobility, problems begin to occur with the digestive, respiratory and circulatory systems, such as blood clotting.

2. As years go by and medical technology progresses, the need for physical and occupational therapists will soar.

- \* For example, after a person has a stroke, perhaps as the result of the aforementioned blood clots, about one-third of the survivors are disabled, in need of extensive physical

therapy.

\* The genome project may be an even better example-- by cloning we may be able to regenerate organs which will prolong life. Physical therapists and occupational therapists will be in great need to help rehabilitate those persons so they can live active, normal lives.

As you can see, the demand for physical therapists and occupational therapist will grow. An 80% increase for physical therapists nationwide is estimated by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics by the year of 2005 with a 58% growth in Wisconsin alone. So why is it that Milwaukee-- the most populated area of the state-- does not have a publicly funded physical therapy program? Yes, we could attempt to enroll at Marquette but they accept freshmen only and are already filled to capacity for the next three years. That means ninth graders are enrolling now. Carroll College is beginning a physical therapy program, but I and fellow physical therapy classmates do not have \$6,500 a semester. We could try to transfer into their professional program, but they take a small percentage of transfer students giving first choice to students who began directly as freshmen and second priority to the students who have been enrolled for a minimum of 68 credited hours; that's \$32,500 and that is just to transfer and complete an undergraduate program-- \$32,500 is not including the professional/masters program. For less than \$32,500, I could attain both a bachelor and masters degree of physical therapy at UW-Milwaukee.

The only other option than paying this kind of money is to transfer to Madison or Concordia-- within 90 miles of Milwaukee-- and speaking for many of my physical therapy classmates, they do not or can not pack up and move their families.

President Clinton, since his recent surgery, is in the hands of physical therapists teaching him to walk with crutches and working on strength training. From leaders of nations to stroke victims, physical therapists are increasingly utilized and needed. Therefore, we ask you to please reconsider the funding for UW-Milwaukee's master program of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. There is a need now which will only increase with time!

Submitted by Piper Ludwig  
S66W18086 Hardtke Drive  
Muskego, WI 53150

Testimony of Bruce Thompson on Expanded Charter School Proposal  
4/8/97

My name is Bruce Thompson. One week ago today I was elected on a reform platform to the Milwaukee School Board for the Fifth District, representing the East and near South sides of this city. In addition, I own the Downtown Montessori School and make my living as a professor at the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

I speak today for myself, not as a representative of any organization. But my testimony reflects my experience, especially during the last six months of campaigning and the thousands of conversations I have had with parents, teachers, and citizens in my district concerned about the state of our schools.

Our families need more and better options. Lacking sufficient satisfactory educational opportunities, families who can afford to are fleeing Milwaukee. This has a very negative effect on the economic viability of our neighborhoods and the quality of the education of the students who remain. It contributes to increasing economic, racial, and social segregation in our society.

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Allowing greater use of charter schools will help see that the educational needs of my constituents are better served. Let me list three possible areas where they can help:

- I found a great desire on the East Side for a small school that would serve its community and help keep families in the city.
- Small focused schools can often serve the needs of children who would otherwise disrupt education in our large public schools.
- Charter schools, particularly on the South Side could relieve the terrible overcrowding in our elementary schools leading to better education for both the children in the charter schools and those remaining in the public schools.

Therefore I encourage you to strengthen Wisconsin's charter school law, by allowing additional sponsors and by clarifying that a charter school may be an instrumentality of MPS.

Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Bruce Thompson  
332-6267

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# Metropolitan Builders Association

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of Greater Milwaukee, Inc.

April 8, 1997

Representative Scott Jensen  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Senator Brian Burke  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53708

RE: DNR Permit Efficiency

Dear Co-Chairs:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Builders Association of Greater Milwaukee, I am writing to express our Association's views on the DNR Permit Efficiency Program that is included in the Governor's budget proposal. Our membership feels that permit efficiency is a great concept; however, the proposal in the Governor's budget does not provide a significant incentive for the DNR to improve its process. The proposal fails in its efforts in that it only allows for a refund of the permit application fee if the DNR does not take action within a certain period of time.


Our Association would encourage the State to adopt a presumptive approval of permits if the DNR does not take action within a certain period of time. The time period we would recommend would be 60 days. In fact, Minnesota has a presumptive approval of permit requests that has 60 days as the required time frame. Minnesota's presumptive approval has also not sacrificed the protection of its natural resources.

Adopting the presumptive approval model for permit efficiency will force real accountability upon the DNR. Currently, projects are often delayed for year or more. This delay can cost a developer thousands of dollars in interest charges, which is ultimately passed on to the property purchaser. Therefore, it can be fairly said that the permit approval delays are decreasing the availability of affordable housing throughout the state. A fair and reasonable business practice, like the presumptive approval, by the DNR would decrease the cost of housing because the money funding such projects would be borrowed for a much shorter period of time.

In conclusion, our Association urges the Joint Committee on Finance to amend the Governor's budget to include the presumptive approval.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Matt Moroney  
MBA Government Affairs Director

TESTIMONY  
TO THE  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
BY  
RICHARD T. ANDERSON, PRESIDENT  
WAUKESHA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
APRIL 8, 1997

The WCTC Board has these standing guidelines:

\*The budget will not include a property tax levy increase of more than 3.8%

\*The tax levy mil rate for operations cannot exceed 1.30, even though the statutory limit is 1.50.

\*New initiatives must be financed with reallocated funds, new sources of resource or increases in state and federal aid.

The faculty and staff at the college have done an outstanding job in both the development of new initiatives and increasing the quality of our programs and services within the above self-imposed restraints. However, the lack of increase in state aids is making it increasingly difficult to continue to meet employer needs of the District. For example:

\*There are currently over 9,000 jobs in the printing and publishing industry in Waukesha County. These employers are desperate for new workers and have asked WCTC to develop a printing and publishing program to meet their new worker and current worker needs. We will require two new full time faculty to meet this need. We can fund one position with a 1% increase in our share of the Governor's proposed state aid increase. A 2% increase will allow us to start the program. We have already reallocated six positions at the college to meet increased needs of existing programs for next year.

There is a growing demand for WCTC to develop a Construction Technology Program. We are working very hard to determine how we will accomplish this within our property tax constraints and almost no state aid increases for the District.

\*The increased use of instructional technology requires funding to train the faculty in the use of technology. WCTC trains thousands of employees for area employers on the use of technology to increase the quality and to improve the productivity of their work force. The latest estimates from the private sector is that they spend about 3% of payroll on upgrade training. The average college spends less than 1%. The Governor's gesture to help us via that \$800,000 plus categorical aid amount he has in his budget must be supported if not increased.

WCTC and the rest of the technical colleges are very conscious of our responsibilities to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible and not contribute in an unreasonable manner to the property tax burden of our constituents. Try as we might, we cannot meet the work force development requirements of our districts without additional help from you.

We urge you to increase the amount of general aids for the system and to retain and increase the categorical aids.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



Testimony Presented by Community Care Organization, Inc.  
Before the Joint Finance Committee on April 8, 1997  
in Support of the Elder Rights Proposal

I am employed by Community Care Organization, Inc. as a case manager and an elder abuse investigator. My agency is under contract to the Milwaukee County Department on Aging to operate the Elder Abuse Reporting System. In that capacity we are the "lead" elder abuse investigative Agency and intervene in approximately 500 cases annually.

I am here to ask you to support the Elder Rights Proposal, which seeks to expand the statewide Benefit Specialist Program, the Elder Abuse Direct Service Program and the Nursing Home Ombudsman Program. The \$1,700,000.00 needed to fund the proposal would be provided by eliminating the Senior Citizens Income Tax Credit of \$25.00 for couples with annual incomes over \$40,000.00 and for individuals with incomes over \$30,000.00 .

The programs in question need to be expanded for several reasons. First, all three programs serve extremely frail and vulnerable older adults who are in dire need of the services provided (by the three programs). Second, the three programs have historically been severely under-funded. For instance, the allocation for the elder abuse direct services program is only \$250,000.00 for the entire state. Consequently, many counties are unable to receive funding. Here in Milwaukee County, approximately 200-250 abused elders receive additional case management and services through the Direct Services Program and thus far in 1997 we are over-budget in providing such services as emergency shelter, food, home health care, etc.

Please support this proposal in order to assist the frail, vulnerable and abused older adults (and also disabled adults) in this state.

Additionally, please consider increasing funding for community based long term care for elderly persons and persons with disabilities. We are very concerned about the considerable amount of funds proposed for nursing home rate increases (\$132 million ) as compared to the minimal amount to expand the COP program (\$5 million) in the proposed 97/99 budget. There is a need to eliminate the institutional bias and to increase the amount allocated for the Community Options Program(COP).

Submitted by: Sue Kimmel, Director of Services  
Community Care Organization, Inc.



April 7, 1997

Dear Joint Finance Committee:

I deeply regret that I am not able to attend this meeting today. Please accept my statement in the form of this letter.

My name is Cathie Weber. I have a set of twins in the first grade. One of my twins has an emotional problem and a writing deficiency because of a muscle problem with her hands. Sometimes she has a problem coping with every day problems at home and at school. It takes her longer to accomplish her school tasks because of the handicap with her hands. This is extremely frustrating for her and causes her to get so emotionally upset it escalates to uncontrollable situations.

Her teacher agrees with me that she has greatly improved since they put the Sage Program into effect at Parkview School. She is getting more positive about herself and with the more individual attention she is receiving, she is more open to learning and a more pleasant child to be around. Her frustration level as improved for the better and she does not have as many emotional outbreaks as she did before.

Her teacher and I are concerned that if the Sage program is discontinued and she gets put back into a larger classroom, she would get lost by falling behind the other students and probably shut down in the learning process. This would create a more devastating situation for her emotionally and she would not be able to function in the classroom setting.

My daughter is very smart and shows exceptional intelligence in some areas. I feel she really needs this program to help her develop to her fullest potential. It already has helped both my twins excel in the learning process. I am very concerned that the Sage program might be withdrawn from Parkview School because of the lack of funding.

This program has proved beneficial not only to my children, but other children as well. Parkview really needs the extra funding to keep this excellent program alive in the school.

Please consider giving Parkview School the extra funding that it needs to keep this wonderful program so that all children can benefit from its excellent rewards.

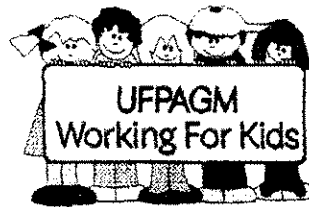
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathie Weber".

Ms. Cathie Weber  
5070 S. Illinois Ave. #12  
Cudahy, WI 53110  
414-747-1157 after 5:30 pm weekdays

President  
Pamela Hartman 447-5622



Vice President  
Connie Martinez 964-4569

Secretary  
Lorrie Clarey 327-4908

United Foster Parent Association of Greater Milwaukee, Inc.

Treasurer  
Susan Scheller 351-1083

Joint Finance Committee:

On behalf of the United Foster Parent Association of Greater Milwaukee, Inc. I would like to address the issue of foster care payments.

Presently, depending on the age of the child, we receive roughly 33 to 45 cents an hour per child. We can't even hire a teen babysitter for less than \$2.00 an hour. We are asking for a 15% raise in the basic maintenance foster care rate.

Those of us that have children of our own, plus one to four foster children also have to look at more spacious housing and larger automobiles. Granted it's a choice to have a large family, but these children need families and often it's parents with children of their own that become foster parents.

The children in foster care today have many physical and emotional needs that require constant attention. We are often spending a lot of time at school, at therapist's or psychiatrist's offices and often the hospital. This often rules out both parents having a job.

Many of us have put careers on hold to parent these children. This truly is a full time job that involves more than a bed, love and food on the table.

As for clothing allowance, we are now allotted a one time \$150.00 to \$200.00 stipend per child. If you have a child for five to ten years, that is all you receive. If the child came from a different foster home who received the allowance we get nothing. This is not realistic. You can barely cover coat, shoes, boots, gloves, hat for winter with this allowance. We need a yearly allotment for clothing.

Consider also recreation. It's important that these children interact socially with other children, take music lessons, dance lessons, go to camp, play sports.

We are trying to help these children become educated, emotionally and physically healthy productive members of society. We are not merely babysitting while their birth parents get their act together.

Ultimately, it's hard to attract good foster parents because most people can't afford to have one person quit working. There is nothing more worthwhile than these children. They are not only our future, but also the future of our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,  
Pamela J. Hartman

President  
United Foster Parent Association of Greater Milwaukee, Inc.

Testimony to Joint Finance Committee on Wisconsin Budget  
United Community Center  
Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Thank you for being here today and for this opportunity to express my ideas and opinions on the difficult task you have before you.

I would like to comment very briefly on 3 areas of the Governor's proposed budget:

1. The proposal to eliminate the AFDC payments to the 1500 families headed by a parent with a disability on SSI, and replace these payments with a \$77 per child monthly payment to the parent. This proposal would drastically cut the total amount of income to families headed by a parent with a disability, thus penalizing children for the happenstance of being born to a parent with a disability. I have worked with such families over the past 4 years as social worker at the Milwaukee Center for Independence; I can tell you quite frankly, that no family receiving SSI and AFDC is getting wealthy, or living above a very modest means. Issues ranging from adequate housing to nutrition, nurturance and developmental stimulation for children are very much a part of the ongoing work with many of these families; the drastic loss in income that this proposal would represent will only serve to greatly exacerbate the challenges of parenting children in a way which helps them to become independent, self-supporting adults.

2. Closely related to the above are the other 2 areas: Family Support and Birth to Three. The proposed budget grants zero increases to these two programs. While it is true that as Program Manager of the Birth to Three program at Milwaukee Center for Independence, these proposals directly impact my own job, I am very concerned as a Wisconsin taxpayer that the dollars "saved" in the next couple of years will translate into thousands of additional dollars that will be needed in the decades ahead to provide for services for persons who are very young children now, but will grow into youth and adults who have not been assisted early on to meet their full potential. A TIME magazine article published within the last few months talked about the importance of the first three years of life in the development of children--the need for proper stimulation and an enriching environment to encourage the development of the brain. This need is no less important for children who qualify for Birth to Three services; it could be argued that this need is, indeed, even more important. If you have any doubt of the efficacy of these services, both Family Support and Birth to Three, I invite you all to visit a Birth to Three program--either MCFI's or one of the other Milw. Co. programs, or anywhere in the state, and see for yourselves what a difference early intervention can make in the lives of families and young children. I am convinced on a daily basis that the children served can and will accomplish things which 10 years ago were not possible because they were not given the advantages of early intervention. But you needn't take my word for it--come and see for yourself! Our door is always open, and families are more than willing to welcome you into their homes and talk with you about how this program is helping their children to reach new heights of achievement. Unfortunately, the fact of caring for children with special needs makes it all that much harder for them to be here themselves today, but they would welcome the opportunity to talk with you anytime.

I urge you to fund the reestimate of Birth to Three as proposed by DHFS and to fund an additional \$4 million to eliminate the 1822 family waiting list for the Family Support Program.

*Ginny Clappe, ACSW  
Program Manager - Birth to Three  
Milwaukee Center for Independence  
member, Supported Parenting Consortium  
(Service Providers for Families headed by a  
Parent with Cognitive Disabilities)*

# Village of Fredonia

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P.O. Box 159

416 Fredonia Avenue  
Phone (414) 692-9125 FAX (414) 692-2883

Fredonia, Wisconsin 53021

## AS A Member of Wisconsin Rural Water Association, and

representing the Village of Fredonia, we support  
the budget provision for the Safe Drinking  
Water Revolving Fund, and the 2%  
Technical Assistance provision.

We further encourage the state to  
allocate more than the 15% of the SRF  
for small systems.

WRWA is an extremely important group for  
all of the small systems.

Thank you.

Allen Neumann  
Water Dept. Supt.

From: Kim Nowak  
Sojourner Truth House

Sojourner Truth House Inc. supports fully funding Domestic Violence Programs in every County. Victims need Support Services in order to break the Cycle of Violence and live a Violence free life

These services must include programs for Children affected by the Violence in their family. There are huge ramifications for these Children such as acting out violently in schools and in our communities, mental health issues, Child Abuse issues (etc.) Society will pay the price if the Cycle is not broken.

For the future of our communities please fund Domestic Violence programs and programming for Children in every County.

Thank You

K. Nowak

From: Shirley Baker Walker

Representing: Sojourner Truth House  
Domestic Violence Victim

As a victim of domestic violence, I assure you that releasing funds for domestic violence programs in the state is very important.

I also advocate releasing more funds for children who are also victims of domestic violence and who, not by choice, have had to leave their homes to go to shelters. Without being in this type of situation, you could not imagine how it affects our children. My 12 year old has to see a therapist now. My 9 year old is angry because I removed him from his home and has been violently acting out on me as well as his brother. It is very necessary for these funds to be allotted so that child advocates can be obtained to intercede for the children. Please save the children!! They are our Future!!

Thank You

Shirley Baker Walker

[The Governor's Mining Provisions in the Budget requiring mining companies to use "proven technology" is too vague + undefined & would therefore provide completely inadequate protection for the environment.]

Hearing on Wisconsin Mining Moratorium Bill

Tuesday, April 8, 1997/ United Community Center, 1028 S. 9th

X

~~Any change in~~ the Mining Moratorium bill passed by the State Senate would <sup>be</sup> weaken <sup>ed by</sup> it and put Wisconsin's environment in jeopardy. Unless a mine technology proven effective for ten years is used as a criterion for excavating new mines in the state, such a gauge is worthless.

Just as you can't compare apples to oranges, you can't compare mine technology to factory technology.



Donald F. Thielke  
concerned citizen

Recommendations for the Use of GPR for the Support  
of the Snowmobile Program-Related

General Purpose Revenues (GPR) in the amount of \$1.8 million would be allocated within DNR to:

- offset the use of snowmobile registration funds for existing Department of Natural Resources snowmobile enforcement and administrative expenditures.
- expend the number of hours spent by Department conservation wardens on snowmobile enforcement from approximately 6,000 hours (equivalent to 3.0 FTE) to 18,000 (equivalent the initial 3 FTE plus an additional 5.6 FTE).
- increase the amount of funds going to the county enforcement aids program from \$200,000 per year to \$300,000 and
- provide funds from the snowmobile program to share proportionately with other motorized recreation programs in continuing the automation of the recreation vehicle registration process.

The funding of affected program components would look like the following:

Existing	New GPR Funding	SEG Offset to Trails
LE/SAFETY TRAINING	\$522,500	\$522,500
COUNTY ENF AIDS	\$200,000	\$200,000
AIDS ADMIN	\$135,900	\$135,900
REGISTRATION ADMIN	\$222,600	\$222,600
ADMIN SERVICES	<u>\$165,000</u>	<u>\$165,000</u>
Total Existing	\$1,246,000	\$1,246,000
Additional		
LE/SAFETY TRAINING	\$382,000	
COUNTY ENF AIDS	\$100,000	
REGISTRATION AUTOM	<u>\$72,000</u>	
Total Additional	\$554,000	
Grand Total	\$1,800,000	

The snowmobile funds offset to the trails program would be used for the growing program components of bridge and trail rehabilitation, addition of critical segments in the trail system and a likely increase in the amount per mile utilized for normal trail maintenance.

Registration automation will require an estimated \$72,000 in FY 98 and an on-going amount of \$15,000 per year.

The additional \$100,000 per year will provide the necessary/funds to counties currently participating in snowmobile patrols to receive reimbursement for their efforts without a prorated reduction .

Currently, 5 FTE or 9150 hours of conservation warden activity is directed at law enforcement and safety education efforts. The ability of the warden force to influence or reduce the accident rate through education and enforcement activities is severely limited by the number of hours dedicated and funded for the effort. The additional \$482,000 of GPR funds made available would be utilized to fund an additional 10,000 hours of effort which is a step closer to the 20,000+ hours that studies and demand for services indicate. On-going costs for the additional enforcement and education activities beyond the first year would include an additional \$57,000 for supplies and services.

There is \$450,000 GPR PER YEAR wrote into THE BUDGET. The BALANCE NEEDED to complete the 1.8 million GPR support for the snowmobile program is **\$1,350,000 GPR PER YEAR.**



**Testimony to the Joint Finance Committee**  
**April 8, 1997**

My name is Marilyn Lange and I am the executive director of Village Adult Services, Inc., a non-profit agency located in Milwaukee. We provide adult day services in two locations to approximately 55 persons daily at one site and 22 persons daily at our 2nd site. I am also the president of the Wisconsin Adult Daycare Association representing adult day service programs throughout Wisconsin.

I regret that I was unable to remain at the hearing in order to testify in person but appreciate this opportunity to provide written comments in regard to the state budget priorities.

I urge the support of increased funding of the Community Options Program (COP) in order to assist older persons and people with disabilities to remain in the community. In Milwaukee County alone, we have excessively long waiting lists for publicly funded community-based services. As a result of these long wait lists, older persons and their families are often forced to select nursing home placement in order to get basic care needs met which could be appropriately provided for if funding for community-based care was available. This choice is made because Title 19 will pay for nursing home care but no funds are readily available to assist with the cost of community-based care. For those people who attempt to "tough" it out until funding for community-based care is available, their needs often increase because of compounding problems as a result of lack of appropriate services and care. When they finally do access funding their care needs have often increased significantly requiring a greater outlay of public funding to attempt to resolve the care needs.

I would also encourage your attention to an increasing problem and that is the problem of Elder Abuse. Abuse is often the result of other problems in the society as well as incredible stress on family members who sometimes attempt to care for the elder family member with little or no assistance. We need to more adequately fund provision of services to both victims and their families both proactively as well as in response to abuse and/or neglect.

I am critically aware of the needs of our elderly working in the field of aging daily but also as the daughter of aging parents whom I have taken care of at home since 1991. Your careful attention to those aspects of the budget which will support the needs of the elderly and disabled is sincerely and gratefully appreciated.

  
Marilyn Lange

Phone: (414) 384-2301 (work)  
(414) 321-3291 (home)